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EXAMINER

DAVIS, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1542

DATE MAILED:

12/19/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/254,623

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

1642

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

### Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

### Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/25/00.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-124 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-124 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's election of Group I and addition of new claims 103-124, in paper No:11, on 09/25/00 is acknowledged.

After review and reconsideration, the restriction requirement of paper No:7, on 03/20/00 is vacated. The pending claims 1-124 requires new restriction.

#### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 17-20, 23-25, 32, 37-42, 92-93, and 95, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, and antiserum reactive with Phospholipase A2 enzyme.

Group II, claim(s) 2, 13, 17-19, 23-25, 32, 35, 37-42, 92-93, 95, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering antiserum reactive with two types of Phospholipase A2 enzyme.

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Group III, claim(s) 2, 13, 17-19, 23-25, 32, 35, 37-42, 92-93, 95, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with more than two types of Phospholipase A2 enzyme

Group IV, claims 5, 45, 46, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom.

Group V, claims 5, 45, 46, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes.

Group VI, claims 5, 45, 46, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom and mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes.

Group VII, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase A2.

Group VIII, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase C.

Group IX, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, an anti-serum to Phospholipase A2, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase C.

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Group X, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase A2.

Group XI, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase C.

Group XII, claims 5, 50, 51, 53-57, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, an anti-serum to Phospholipase A2, and an anti-serum to Phospholipase C.

Group XIII, claims 6, 61, 65-72, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C.

Group XIV, claims 6, 58, 59, 62, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which are anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XV, claims 6, 58, 59, 63, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which prevent immunosuppression.

Group XV, claims 6, 58, 59, 64, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

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Group XVI, claims 6, 58, 59, 63, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which treat asthma.

Group XVII, claims 6, 58, 59, 63, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which treat psoriasis.

Group XVIII, claims 6, 58, 59, 63, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, in combination with other therapeutically effective agents which treat bronchitis.

Group XIX, claims 7, 22, 73, drawn to a method of treating a neoplastic condition, using a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C, and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C.

Group XX, claims 8, 83, drawn to a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme.

 Group XXI, claims 8, 83, drawn to a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme.

Group XXII, claims 8, 83, drawn to a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme.

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Group XXIII, claim 9, drawn to a method for enhancing anti-neoplastic activity, using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, and an antisereum reactive with PLA2, in combination with an inhibitor of phospholipase C enzyme.

Group XXIV, claim 9, drawn to a method for enhancing anti-neoplastic activity, using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme, and an antisereum reactive with PLA2, in combination with an inhibitor of phospholipase C enzyme.

Group XXV, claim 9, drawn to a method for enhancing anti-neoplastic activity, using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme, and an antisereum reactive with PLA2, in combination with an inhibitor of phospholipase C enzyme.

Group XXVI, claims 1, 10, 11, 14, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with adjuvants or an anti-inflammatory agent.

Group XXVII, claims 1, 10, 15, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with an agent that prevent immunosuppression.

Group XXVIII, claims 1, 10, 16, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with an agent that treats allergic contact dermatitis.

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Group XXIX, claims 1, 10, 16, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with an agent that treats asthma.

Group XXX, claims 1, 10, 16, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with an agent that treats psoriasis.

Group XXXI, claims 1, 10, 16, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with an agent that treats bronchitis.

Group XXXII, claims 1, 12, 103, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, in combination with venom.

Group XXXIII, claims 1, 17, 21, 90-91, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, and antiserum to Phospholipase C.

 Group XXXIV, claims 26-31, 36, 97-102, drawn to a method of inoculation with two or more phospholipase A2 enzymes types.

Group XXXV, claims 33, 34, drawn to a method of early detection of cancer.



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Group XXXVI, claims 5, 43, 44, 47, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants, or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXVII, claims 5, 43, 44, 47, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants, or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXVIII, claims 5, 43, 44, 47, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants, or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXIX, claims 5, 43, 44, 48, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent the occurrence of immunosuppression.

Group XXXX, claims 5, 43, 44, 48, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent the occurrence of immunosuppression.

Group XXXXI, claims 5, 43, 44, 48, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, mammalian, plant or insect

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PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent the occurrence of immunosuppression.

Group XXXXII, claims 5, 43, 44, 49, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

Group XXXXIII, claims 5, 43, 44, 49, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

Group XXXXIV, claims 5, 43, 44, 49, drawn to a method of preventing neoplastic development, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

Group XXXXV, claim 52, drawn to a therapeutic agent comprising a venom.

Group XXXXVI, claim 52, drawn to a therapeutic agent comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes.

Group XXXXVII, claim 52, drawn to a therapeutic agent comprising venom and mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzymes.

Group XXXXVIII, claims 6, 60, 105, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C, and venom.

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Group XXXXIX, claims 74-78, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXXX, claims 74-78, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXXXI, claims 74-78, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which are adjuvants or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXXXII, claims 74, 79, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent immunosuppression.

Group XXXXXIII, claims 74, 79, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent immunosuppression.

Group XXXXXIV, claims 74, 79, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which prevent immunosuppression.

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Group XXXXXV, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

Group XXXXXVI, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

Group XXXXXVII, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat asthma.

Group XXXXXVIII, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat asthma.

Group XXXXXIX, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat asthma.

Group XXXXXX, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat asthma.

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Group XXXXXXI, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat psoriasis.

Group XXXXXXII, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat psoriasis.

Group XXXXXXIII, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat psoriasis.

Group XXXXXXIV, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat bronchitis.

Group XXXXXXV, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat bronchitis.

Group XXXXXXVI, claims 74, 80, 81, 82, 84-89, drawn to a method using a composition comprising one or more venom, mammalian, plant or insect PLA2 enzyme and phospholipase C enzyme, in combination with other therapeutic agents, which treat bronchitis.

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Group XXXXXXVII, claims 94, 96, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, and an inhibitor of phospholipase C.

Group XXXXXXVIII, claim 104, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, and phospholipase C.

Group XXXXXXIX, claim 105, drawn to a composition comprising antiserum to PLA2 enzyme, antiserum to Phospholipase C and one inhibitory compound to phospholipase C., and further comprising venom.

~~Group XXXXXXXX, claims 106, 109, 113, 123, 124, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom.~~

Group XXXXXXXXI, claims 106, 107-108, 110, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which are adjuvants or anti-inflammatory agents.

Group XXXXXXXXII, claims 106, 107-108, 111, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which prevent immunosuppression..

Group XXXXXXXXIII, claims 106, 107-108, 112, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

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Group XXXXXXXXIV, claims 106, 107-108, 112, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which treat asthma.

Group XXXXXXXXV, claims 106, 107-108, 112, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which treat psoriasis.

Group XXXXXXXXVI, claims 106, 107-108, 112, drawn to a method of treating neoplasm, comprising administering a vaccine comprising venom in combination with other agents, which treat bronchitis.

Group XXXXXXXXVII, claims 114, 117, 121, 122, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C.

Group XXXXXXXXVIII, claims 114, 115, 116, 118, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which are adjuvants or an anti-inflammatory agent.

Group XXXXXXXXIX, claims 114, 115, 116, 119, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which prevents immunosuppression.

Group XXXXXXXXX, claims 114, 115, 116, 120, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which treat allergic contact dermatitis.

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Group XXXXXXXXXI, claims 114, 115, 116, 120, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which treat asthma.

Group XXXXXXXXXII, claims 114, 115, 116, 120, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which treat psoriasis.

Group XXXXXXXXXIII, claims 114, 115, 116, 120, drawn to a formulation comprising venom, antiserum to phospholipase C, and one inhibitor of phospholipase C, in combination with other agents, which treat bronchitis.

In addition, upon election of any one of groups I-III, further election of the following species is required:

Neoplasm or anyone of the diseases recited in claims 18, 20, or parasitic or bacterial infection.

Upon election of the species parasitic disease, further election of the following species is required:

Leishmania, Trypanosoma, or Toxoplasma.

Upon election of group XIII, further election of the following species is required:

Neoplasm, or any of the diseases recited in claim 67.

Upon election of any of groups XX-XXI, further election of the following species is required:



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Any of the diseases recited in claim 83.

Upon election of any of groups XXXXV-XXXXVII, further election of the following species is required:

Any of the diseases recited in claim 52.

Upon election of any of groups XXXXXXXX, further election of the following species is required:

Any of the diseases recited in claim 113.

Upon election of any of groups XXXXXXXXVII, further election of the following species is required:

Any of the diseases recited in claim 121.

Upon election of any groups comprising or using antibody, further election of the following species is required:

Mono or polyclonal antibodies, antibodies having Fc receptor totally or partially removed, antiserum produced in eggs, antiserum extracted from the colostrum, or synthetic antiserum produced by molecular imprinting of template molecules.

Upon election of any groups comprising or using Phospholipase A2, further election of the following species is required:

Phospholipase A2, type I, II, III, or IV.

Upon election of any groups comprising or using Phospholipase A2, election of the following species is required:

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Mammalian, plant or insect PLA2.

Upon election of any method or composition groups comprising inhibitor of phospholipase C, further election of the following species is required:

EDTA, Phenanthroline, Chloromercuribenzoic acid, iodoacetic acid, or 1-oleoyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycerol.

The inventions listed as Groups I-XXXXXXXXXIII do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

An international stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of invention so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT article 17(3) (a) and 1.476 (c), 37 C.F.R. 1.475(d). Group I will be the main invention. After that, all other products and methods will be broken out as separate groups (see 37 CFR 1.475 (d)).

Group I, claims 1, 3, 4, 17-20, 23-25, 32, 37, 39-40, 91-93, and 95, drawn to a method of treating diseases, comprising administering antiserum reactive with one type of Phospholipase A2 enzyme, and antiserum reactive with Phospholipase A2 enzyme, form a single inventive concept.

Groups II-XII, XIX, XXIII-XXXXIV, XXXXIX-XXXXXXVIII, XXXXXXXX-XXXXXXXVI are additional methods, which are distinct from the method of group I and with each other others, in method steps, parameters, and reagents used. Groups XIII-XVIII, XX-

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XXII, XXXXV-XXXXVIII, XXXXXXXXVII-XXXXXXXXXIII are additional products, which are distinct from the method of group I and with each other others, because they are drawn to entirely different biochemicals, having different structures, biological properties and activities.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reason given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and because the searches for the groups are not co-extensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicants are required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single disclosed group for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. Applicant is further advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 USC 103 of the other invention.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Tam B. Davis whose telephone number is (703) 305-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 3:30pm, except on Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4227.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0916.

Minh-Tam B. Davis

December 10, 2000

  
SUSAN UNGAR, Ph.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER